

I. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listed below are the changes made to the claims, in which the insertions are underlined and deletions are shown by strikethrough. The listing of claims below replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. The listing of claims presents each claim with its respective status shown in parentheses.

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. **(Previously Presented)** A distributed file storage system comprising:
 - a set of at least four storage modules in communication with each other;
 - a file stored on the distributed file system;
 - a first file portion of the file comprising a first set of file data; and
 - a second file portion of the file comprising a second set of file data, wherein the second set of file data is different from the first set of file data;
 - metadata related to the file;
 - error correction data related to the file comprising at least a first error correction data related to the first file portion;
 - a first program module stored in said distributed file storage system and in communication with the set of storage modules configured to:
 - dynamically select from the set of storage modules a first storage module on which to store the first file portion;
 - dynamically select from the set of storage modules a second storage module on which to store the second file portion, wherein the first storage module is different from the second storage module;
 - dynamically select from the set of storage modules a third storage module on which to store at least a portion of the metadata, wherein the third storage module is different from the first storage module and the second storage module;
 - and
 - dynamically select from the set of storage modules a fourth storage module on which to store the first error correction data, wherein the fourth storage module is different from the first storage module and the second storage module;
 - wherein the dynamic selection is based on at least one of performance, available capacity, and throughput of the set of storage modules; and

a second program module stored in said distributed file storage system and in communication with the set of storage modules configured to dynamically update the metadata to indicate which of the set of storage modules on which the first file portion, the second file portion, and the first error correction data are stored.

2. **(Previously Presented)** The distributed file storage system of Claim 1, further comprising a third program module stored in said distributed file storage system and in communication with the set of storage modules.

3. **(Previously Presented)** The distributed file storage system of Claim 1, wherein the error correction data includes parity information.

4. **(Previously Presented)** The distributed file storage system of Claim 3, wherein the parity information includes parity data blocks and location information indicating which of the set of storage units on which the parity data blocks are stored, and wherein the metadata further indicates the location information.

5. **(Previously Presented)** The distributed file storage system of Claim 1 wherein the error correction data includes redundancy data related to the file, and wherein the metadata further indicates the location of the redundancy data.

6. **(Currently Amended)** The distributed file storage system of Claim 5, wherein the first program module is further configured to dynamically select from the set of storage modules a fifth storage module on which to store a copy of the first file portion in real-time on a fifth storage module in the set of storage modules and to store, and wherein the second program module is further configured to dynamically update the location of the copied first file portion in the metadata, wherein the fifth storage module is different from the first storage module and the third storage module.

7. **(Previously Presented)** The distributed file storage system of Claim 1, further comprising a third program module stored in said distributed file storage system and in communication with the set of storage modules configured to move the first file portion in real-time from the first storage module to a fifth storage module in the set of storage modules, and the second program module is further configured to update the metadata to indicate the location of the moved first file portion.

8. **(Previously Presented)** The distributed file storage system of Claim 1, further comprising a third program module stored in said distributed file storage system and in

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communication with the set of storage modules, said third program module configured to replicate the first file portion in real-time and to store the replicated first file portion on a fifth storage module in the set of storage modules, and the second program module is further configured to update the metadata to indicate the location of the replicated first file portion.

9. **(Previously Presented)** The distributed file storage system of Claim 8, the third program module further configured to replicate the first file portion in response to a high volume of requests for the data.

10. **(Previously Presented)** The distributed file storage system of Claim 8, the third program module further configured to replicate the first file portion in response to high utilization of the hardware which stores the data.

11. **(Previously Presented)** The distributed file storage system of Claim 1, further configured to handle more READ requests than WRITE requests.

12. **(Previously Presented)** The distributed file storage system of Claim 1, further configured to handle block transactions.

13. – 42. **(Cancelled)**

43. **(Previously Presented)** The distributed file system of Claim 1, wherein the file has been stored on a number of storage modules, wherein the number is determined specifically for the file, and wherein the number is equal to or greater than two.

44. – 58. **(Cancelled)**